

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are the only claims currently pending in the application. Claims 4-11 are canceled. The foregoing separate sheets marked as "Listing of Claims" shows all the claims in the application, with an indication of the current status of each.

Applicant's undersigned counsel appreciates the Examiner's courtesy in holding a telephonic interview with the undersigned on May 31, 2007, and the Examiner's further courtesy in holding a second telephonic interview with the undersigned on June 5, 2007. The May 31, 2007 interview concluded with agreement that the Examiner will withdraw the rejection of claims 1-3 upon Applicant amending claim 1 to recite generating the winning bid, linked to the preceding claim steps claim. The June 5, 2007 concluded with agreement regarding particular, minor matters of claim language. Applicant respectfully submits the above-amended claim 1 embodies the form deemed by the Examiner as placing claims 1-3 into condition for allowance. Applicant further respectfully submits that example support, and antecedent, for the "dummy bids" recital of claim 1 is at page 17, line 20, through page 18, line 9, and elsewhere throughout the specification.

Applicant is not conceding in this application that the previously presented claims 1-3 are not patentable within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 101, or that any of the previously presented claims 4-11 are not patentable over any prior art. These claim amendments and cancellations are only for expediting the instant application. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue previously presented claims 1-11, and any other claims drawn to any disclosed subject matter, in one or more continuation applications.

In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 1-3 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, Applicant's undersigned counsel respectfully requests the Examiner contact the undersigned to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

If an extension of time is required for this response to be considered as being timely filed, a conditional petition is hereby made for such extension of time. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account 50-0510 (IBM-Yorktown).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laurence E. Stein', written over the typed name.

Laurence E. Stein

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